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*Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates*

## HABIT NOTE ON SNIPE EEL.

While fishing for Red Snapper (*Neomaenis aya*) on the Argus Bank south-west of the Bermudas in the fishing steamer "Neptune," March 3, 1908, in about 30 fathoms of water, a snapper was taken weighing about 10 or 12 pounds. Attached to the posterior margin of the caudal of this large fish by its slender jaws, was a Snipe Eel (*Nemichthys scolapaceus*) 265 mm. long. The specimen being taken in this way gives good reason to believe that grasping the tails of fishes is the function of the divergent mandibles of these eels.

L. L. MOWBRAY,  
*Bermuda.*

## A FLORIDA FLYING FISH.

While connected with the Miami Aquarium, Mr. Louis L. Mowbray secured some marine fish material of considerable technical interest which he has presented to the American Museum of Natural History and which has been examined by the writer. Comment on a few of the species may be helpful to students of the West Indian fish fauna.

*Halocypselus obtusirostris*. A young flying fish, 34mm. in length to base of caudal, from near Miami, Florida, differs in several respects from the common two-winged flyingfish, *H. evolans*. There is in our collections a specimen of the latter, unfortunately

without definite locality, of almost the same size, 35mm., wherewith it can be compared; and the writer considers them distinct without hesitation, though closely related. The *obtusirostris* shows the several differences pointed out by Lütken,<sup>1</sup> in position of ventrals relative to snout and dorsal, extra scale in cross series, comparatively greater length of paired fins. In this small *obtusirostris* the pectorals reach quite to the upper base of the caudal, the ventrals are contained 1.5 in head. In the small *evolans* pectorals reach only to the beginning of the peduncle, ventrals are contained 1.7 in head. The color alone is significantly different. The ventrals, pale in *evolans*, are mostly blackish. The pectorals are dusky proximally and ventrad, blackest along the lower edge, the dark separated in a sharp slanting line from an extensive white or colorless distal portion of the fin, which is bordered along the top by a very narrow ill-defined dusky edge that appears also to cover the extreme fin tip. The small *evolans*, on the other hand, has a dusky pectoral, black distally and paling to white proximally and ventrally, with a rather broad lower border white throughout, involving the tip, and the upper edge very narrowly whitish. Roughly then, the fin colors of *obtusirostris* are the diametrical opposite or complement of those of *evolans*, a condition rather to be looked for in closely related species with the same range.<sup>2</sup> The forehead of this little *obtusirostris* slants down steeply from top of head to short snout, giving it an abnormal almost "simous" appearance, probably a normal juvenal character in the genus as the *evolans* has it also, only in less degree. Neither specimen has barbels.

Continued use of the genus *Halocypselus* for these flying fishes, versus the Linnæan genus *Exocoëtus* current for them at the moment, calls for explanation. In the writer's opinion there is nothing in

<sup>1</sup>Lütken, 1877, Journ. Zool. (Gervais), vi., p. 107-127.

<sup>2</sup>Nichols, 1916, Am. Naturalist, L, p. 565-574.

present interpretation of Linnæan species affecting this genus, to preclude different interpretations in the future, or, if *Exocoetus* (defined sufficiently for flying fishes as a whole, but not for any subdivision of them) be used at all, to make it less dangerously confusing in the future than it has been in the past. Why use a name at all if only confusion is to result? *Halocypselus* narrows flying fish possibilities sufficiently to leave no doubt as to intended identity of "*H. evolans*," though quite probably this specific name is not available here on one of several counts, and may be definitely and advantageously replaced by the researches of some practiced taxonomist.

J. T. NICHOLS,  
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### A BATFISH FROM THE AMAZON

The writer recently collected a very large Batfish, *Ogcocephalus vespertilio*, from fresh water in a mud hole some 800 or 900 miles up the Amazon River. It was 34cm. in total length, the rostrum long, contained about 6 times in length to base of caudal fin, and the tubercles on the mid line of the back prominent, especially on the tail where they covered almost the entire top of the peduncle. The size of this specimen and its occurrence in fresh water are worth placing on record.

ALEX. DE SOTO,  
New York, N. Y.

### A NEW SPECIES OF FROG FROM EASTERN SIBERIA

*Rana zografi*,<sup>3</sup> sp. nov.

Vomerine teeth in two slightly oblique groups, the anterior border of which extends forward slightly beyond a line through the posterior border of the choanae. Snout rounded; the distance from orbit to tip of snout longer than width between black stripes at anterior border of orbit. Nostrils nearer the tip of snout than the eye. Interorbital space as wide as

<sup>3</sup> Named in honor of my first teacher in Zoology, G. N. Zograf.